The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

9

Story & Art by
Aya Shouoto

Story & Art by Aya Shouoto

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 32

Wish

CHAPTER 32

Wish

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

9

Contents

CHAPTER 32 Wish | 007

CHAPTER 33 The Seventh Child | 047

CHAPTER 34 Welcome Back to Momochi House! | 086

CHAPTER 35 Light | 125

The Mysterious Residents of Momochi House

Aoi Nanamori

When he was 7 years old, he wandered into Momochi House and was chosen as the Omamori-sama. He transforms into a nue to perform his duties, but it seems this role was meant for Himari.

Omamori-sama (Nue)

An ayakashi, or demon, with the ears of a cat, the wings of a bird, and the tail of a fox. As the Omamori-sama, the nue protects Momochi House and eliminates demons who make their way in from the spiritual realm.

Yukari

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's a water serpent.

Ise

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's an orangutan.

Himari Momochi

A 16-year-old orphan who, according to a certain will, has inherited Momochi House. As rightful owner, she has the ability to expel beings from the house.

Lesser Yokai

Momochi House: Story Thus Far

Aoi has become stuck as the Nue and is unable to revert to human form. Himari must retrieve Aoi's memories so he can transform back. She visits the Nanamori household with Ise to find out more about what happened to Aoi in his childhood. But as she had expected, his family has no recollection of him. Furthermore, for reasons unknown, Aoi's younger sister Akane is an ayakashi. Unsure what to do, Himari is shown the path to truth by the winter cherry lantern and arrives at the Drawers of Thought, the storehouse of all memories. There she gives up learning about her true name and past in order to gain access to Aoi's memories. Aoi's feelings of guilt for allowing an ayakashi into the Nanamori household and bringing misfortune on his family are impeding him from reverting back to human form. The Nue tells Himari that ayakashi and humans cannot coexist. Concerned about Akane's letter, Himari returns to the Nanamori household...

IF ONLY AOI COULD LEAVE MOMOCHI HOUSE, THEN...

I SOMETIMES WISH...

I THOUGHT IF WE REALLY TRIED, THERE WOULD BE SOME WAY...

BUT EVEN SO...

I KNOW THAT.

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

WE COULD LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND US...

...AND THEN...

...WE COULD BE NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

...AND ENJOY A CAREFREE LIFE.

CAN THINGS TRULY WORK OUT?

...A WHISPER!...

AYAKASHI AND HUMANS CANNOT...

UNLIKE THE NAME YOU BEAR, YOU ARE POWER-LESS.

I HEAR...

SHAAA

BUT LITTLE BY LITTLE...

AOI IS DEAD.

...

...

...

THAT WHICH...

...FACE THIS WITH OPEN EYES?

CAN I STILL...

SHAAA

...CAN'T BE OVERCOME BY WISHFUL THINKING?

THIS PLACE...

YOU'RE FINALLY HERE, HUH.

ISE?

DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD. THIS AREA IS WITHIN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

OH NO! IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN SEPARATED FROM MR. NANAMORI...!

OF COURSE. NO NORMAL HUMAN COULD GET THIS FAR INTO THIS REALM.

UNLESS THEY'VE BEEN SUMMONED.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

HIMARI!

OH!

THUK

SO YOU FINALLY CAME OUT...

...AKANE.

DIS

KRIK KRIK KRIK

BOOM

DISAP-PEAR!

HAH... YOU'RE NOT AS POWER-FUL...

...AS I THOUGHT.

DISAP-PEAR.

DISAP-PEAR.

DISAP-PEAR.

DIS-APPEAR.

I CAN TAKE YOU ON BY MYSELF.

THIS TIME, I'LL FINISH-

DON'T ATTACK!

EVEN SO...

SHE TRIED TO DEVOUR YOU!

SHE'S AN AYAKASHI!

WHAT?!

EVEN SO, YOU CAN'T!

AYAKASHI AND HUMANS CAN'T–

THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?!

Aoi is dead.

...AOI IS DEAD...

...SO YOU WOULDN'T TELL.

DISAP-PEAR.

I TOLD YOU...

KLENCH

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

AOI WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET...

SO YOU WOULDN'T TELL.

YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW, DID YOU?

HIMARI?

DASH

STOP SAYING "AOI"!

AKANE!

...THAT IMPORTANT TO HER.

I'M SORRY.

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

IT WAS...

DON'T EAT HER!

"AOI"? WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

HIMARI?

GWAH

STOP ...

... TALKING ABOUT AOI!

WAIT

HALT

TWINS...

AKANE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A TWIN SISTER.

BUT...

...ONE TWIN SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED WHILE MY WIFE WAS STILL PREGNANT.

WE KNEW SHE EXISTED FROM THE ULTRA-SOUND...

...BUT SHE WAS NEVER BORN.

THE NAME...

...WAS "AOI."

...WE HAD PLANNED TO GIVE HER...

YOUR "AOI"...

...IS AN AYAKASHI, ISN'T SHE?

...

AKANE! I...MUST DEVOUR HER!

BUT...

...THIS GIRL TOLD ME YOU WOULD BE ALL RIGHT!

GRIP

I CAN'T ALLOW IT!

I'M AN AYA-KASHI!

THAT ONE WILL EXTERMINATE ME!

...

SHE'S AFRAID OF YOU?

ISE...

THEN...

YOU'RE THE ONE FROM BACK THEN.

HE CAME HERE...

...AND EXTERMI-NATED THE AYAKASHI IN THE HOUSE!

HUH?! WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?

VEEN

YOU'RE THAT BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN MR. NANAMORI WAS TALKING ABOUT.

SHE HAD BEEN A WEAK AYAKASHI.

SHE WAS PROBABLY DRAWN TO AOI, BUT COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM BECAUSE OF HIS POWER.

...BUT HE TOLD ME NOT TO LAY A HAND ON HIS "SISTER."

...

AOI ASKED ME TO.

I GOT RID OF MOST OF THE AYAKASHI IN THE NANAMORI HOUSEHOLD...

OUT OF FEAR, SHE HID IN HIS MOTHER'S WOMB...

...AND ATTACHED HERSELF TO HIS BABY SISTER.

DISAP-PEAR

AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'VE FUSED TOGETHER.

ALL THIS TIME I TOO BELIEVED WHAT AOI HAD TOLD ME...

...THAT HIS SISTER WAS AN AYAKASHI.

BUT NOW THAT I KNOW THE TRUTH...

...AS HIS SHIKIGAMI, I CANNOT IGNORE THIS.

SHA

THAT AYAKASHI MUST BE GOTTEN RID OF.

ISE?!

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, SHE MIGHT TRY TO DEVOUR SOMEONE ELSE.

...WHY DON'T WE TAKE THIS AOI TO MOMOCHI HOUSE JUST LIKE WE DID WITH THE FOX SPIRIT?!

SO THEN...

OKAY.

AOI!

I KNEW IT. HE'S...

RHM

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

SHE'S WEAK.

IF WE SEPARATE THEM, THAT AYAKASHI WILL DISAPPEAR.

SHE'S LIKE A SHADOW.

BUT-

DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

AOI'S WISH...

...IS TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY.

SHAAA

HUMANS AND AYAKASHI CAN'T-

SWIP

STOP!

I WON'T LET YOU HURT AOI!

I KNOW WHY.

BUT WHEN EVENING COMES, THEY'RE SAD.

MOMMY AND DADDY ARE BOTH KIND.

IT'S BECAUSE ...

...SOMEONE WENT MISSING.

WHO ARE YOU?

VHHM

...AREN'T YOU?

YOU'RE AOI...

AOI IS MY SISTER!

WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER ALL THIS TIME.

I SEE.

I CARE ABOUT HER!

SO...

...DON'T TAKE AOI AWAY!

IF SHE'S BEING A BAD GIRL, I'LL STOP HER.

EVERY SINGLE TIME!

EVERY SINGLE TIME!

PLEASE!

YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF AYAKASHI, ARE YOU, AKANE?

SHFF

WHAT ABOUT YOU, AOI?

WHY WOULD I BE? SHE'S MY FAMILY.

I...

JOLT

...WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS FAMILY...

THAT BOY IS THE ONE...

I WANT TO...

...BE WITH AKANE...

STILL...

I'M SORRY.

I APOLOGIZE TO THAT BOY.

I WANT TO BE WITH HER.

I WANT TO BE WITH THIS GIRL.

...I'LL TRY TO STOP HER TOO.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS...

...THAT HUMANS AND AYAKASHI CAN LIVE TOGETHER.

MY WISH...

I WANT TO BELIEVE...

DON'T JUST DECIDE THINGS ON YOUR OWN!

HUH?!

ALONG WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN.

...IS THAT WE CAN BECOME A FAMILY.

YOU FEEL THE SAME, RIGHT?

I'VE WISHED FOR IT MANY TIMES LIKE YOU.

WISHING ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE SOMETHING COME TRUE...

THE NEXT TIME YOU GO WILD, I WON'T GO SO EASY ON YOU.

...

GEH!

...BUT IF I DON'T WISH FOR IT, I'M SURE NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

HOW BORING.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU LOSE CONTROL.

NUE...

KASHA.

I KEEP TELLING YOU THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

I'LL HELP MOVE THINGS FORWARD A BIT.

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME.

LET'S SEE...

GRIN

IT'S NOTH-ING MUCH.

THIS REALM IS IN THE PALM OF MY HAND.

KASHA, WHAT ARE YOU-

SWOOSH

HUH?

WHY...

KLAP

WHM

KASHA!

KLAP

KLAP

KLAP

...ARE YOU HERE?

AH, SO YOU DECIDED TO COME, NUE.

I WAS RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE. YOU'RE NOT ENTERTAINING ME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, GIRL?

AOI STILL CAN'T REVERT BACK TO HUMAN FORM.

YOU'RE USELESS.

SHUT UP!

SWIP

SHE'S TAKEN HUGE RISKS TO HELP HIM!

OH?

THEN DO YOU TRULY THINK...

THAT...

...HUMANS AND AYAKASHI CAN COEXIST?

I'M NOT BOTHERED BY THE WORDS OF A DEMON LIKE YOU.

...IS MY WISH.

...IS CHAOS.

I KNOW.

I REMEMBER THE TERMS OF OUR BET.

IF YOU LAY A HAND ON HIMARI-

KASHA.

AND WHAT...

...WE DEMONS LOVE...

...LOVE CORRUPTION.

EVIL SPIRITS...

OGRES...

...SNIFF OUT SUFFERING.

LISTEN CLOSELY, GIRL.

POI

I'M AFTER THIS ONE.

NO!

...ALWAYS...

I'LL ALWAYS...

AOI?!

AOI?

...BE WITH YOU.

I WANT TO BE WITH THIS GIRL...

AYAKASHI HAVE NO NEED FOR WISHES.

Chapter 32/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER
33

The Seventh Child

AYAKASHI HAVE NO NEED FOR WISHES.

...TO DO AS THEY PLEASE.

AYAKASHI SIMPLY EXIST...

BUT WHAT IS THIS FEELING?

YOU'RE AOI...

WHAT-EVER THEY FEEL LIKE...

...AREN'T YOU?

YOU SHOULD DISAP-PEAR.

WHAT-EVER THEY WANT...

AKANE, DON'T CRY...

I DON'T KNOW, BUT...

I DON'T KNOW.

I WANT TO BE WITH THIS GIRL.

I SEE.

IT'S BECAUSE I'M AN AYAKASHI...

I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU...

...SO I'LL DO AS I PLEASE AND STAY WITH YOU.

ALWAYS...

ALWAYS...

KASHA!

OH?

WHAT'S THIS?

DESPITE YOUR WEAK BONDS...

...DO YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR THOSE WHO SHARE YOUR BLOOD?

...IS FATED TO HAVE WEAK BONDS WITH HIS BLOOD RELATIVES.

HE...

OR...

KRSH

LIK

LIK

...IS IT JUST AN ACT?

HA HA HA HA

YOU PUT ON A FINE SHOW OF PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN.

DASH

KASHA!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY...

...AOI IS HUMAN!

KLAT

SHIFT

WE WILL BECOME HIS TIES.

HE HAS WEAK BONDS.

SO WHAT?

PLAYTIME IS OVER...

...KASHA.

BEGONE.

I'LL...
...SEE YOU AGAIN.
NO NEED TO GET SO ANGRY.
HEH
VHHM
WELL.
I'M SATISFIED.
THIRK
HOOM

Ha
Ha

I'LL...

...SEE YOU AGAIN.

NO NEED TO GET SO ANGRY.

HEH

VHHM

WELL. I'M SATISFIED.

THIRK

WHO ARE YOU?

WHERE DID AOI GO?

ARE YOU AN AYAKASHI?

ARE YOU THE SAME AS AOI?

SUFF

GLOW

IS THAT...

...AOI?!

...TAKING THIS BACK TO THE AYAKASHI WORLD.

SHFF

I'M...

IT'S AN ORDINARY LIGHT.

...YOU'RE SISTERS, AREN'T YOU?

BUT...

...

THAT'S RIGHT.

DOES THIS MEAN I CAN'T SEE AOI ANYMORE?!

EVEN IF YOU'RE APART...

...YOUR HEARTS WILL BE TOGETHER.

YES...

SHE'LL ALWAYS BE DEAR TO ME!

EVEN IF WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER...

...WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER...

THANK YOU...

...
AYAKASHI!

HUH ?!

AKANE!

SNIFF

YOU'RE...

WE'RE STILL IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

I'M AMAZED HE COULD GET IN.

OH!

HUG

I'M SO RELIEVED YOU'RE SAFE, AKANE!

AOI'S– AKANE'S FATHER!

THANK GOOD-NESS.

THANKS TO YOU, OUR LIVES WERE SAVED. I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

BUT PLEASE...

SWIP

I KNEW IT WAS YOU.

...

...

PLEASE DON'T TAKE HER AWAY!

TMP

NUE...

I'LL DO ANYTHING. I'LL GIVE UP MY LIFE. PLEASE...

...DON'T DO WHAT YOU DID TO HER TWIN SISTER AOI.

...

THAT'S YOUR FATHER.

THEN ...?

I HAVE NO NEED FOR ANYTHING FROM YOU.

I CAN'T LET HIM SEE ME LIKE THIS.

AKANE?

OH

AOI WENT AWAY.

DADDY...

I HEARD YOU AND MOMMY TALKING.

YEAH.

...ABOUT AOI?

YOU KNEW...

...

I SEE.

...WE PLANNED ON GIVING YOUR SISTER.

AOI IS THE NAME THAT...

I WONDER WHY...

...FOR SOME REASON...

...WHEN-EVER I SEE THE SUNSET...

...THAT NAME LINGERS IN MY MIND.

AOI...

I WONDER...
I WONDER WHY THAT IS...

BACK THEN...

I TOLD YOU I'D TAKE WHAT YOU HAD LOST.

DADDY...

WHAT'S WRONG?

ISE...

I WANT YOU TO VISIT MY HOUSE.

COULD YOU RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME?

MAKE SURE MY FAMILY ISN'T WORRYING ABOUT ME.

...BUT WHEN I SAW THAT THEY HAD SIMPLY FORGOTTEN EVERY-THING...

I GUESSED WHAT MOMOCHI HOUSE'S POWERS HAD DONE...

...THAT IT WASN'T IMPORTANT.

I THOUGHT...

...THIS WAS SOMETHING YOU WERE FINE WITH LOSING...

BUT...

...IT WASN'T...

...SOME-THING...

...YOU WANTED TO LOSE.

AOI.

AOI.

AOI NEEDS...

...TO ACCEPT HIS PAST IN HIS HEART.

GRAB

AOI!

YOU CAN SEE YOUR DAD NOW!

RIGHT NOW!

AT THIS MOMENT...

...IN THIS PLACE...

...EVEN IF IT'S JUST A GLIMPSE...

IT'S OKAY.

HUG

IT'S OKAY, HIMARI.

THANK YOU.

AOI...

WELCOME BACK.

BUT...

AOI HAS GONE AWAY.

DADDY...

...WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

...EVEN IF WE'RE APART...

...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

BECAUSE WE'RE FAMILY.

LET'S
GO
HOME.

Chapter 1 End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 34

Welcome Back to Momochi House!

CHAPTER
34

Welcome Back to Momochi House!

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

KRI-I-I

KRI-I-I

KRI-I-I

KRI-I-I

KRI-I-I

SO DID YOU GO TO THE NANAMORI HOUSE IN THE NEXT TOWN?

HIMARI?

YES, I DID.

THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL NAMED AKANE. SHE REALLY ENJOYED THE CANDY.

I SEE. THANKS FOR DOING THAT FOR ME.

NO PROB-LEM.

SO...

WAS IT THE HOUSE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR—THE ONE BELONGING TO YOUR FRIEND?

...BELONGED TO AOI'S FAMILY.

THAT HOUSE WAS AOI'S PAST.

AOI'S PATH HOME.

WE JUST DISCOVERED IT. NOW...

I THINK ...

...EVERY-THING'S SETTLED NOW.

EVERY-THING ...

...IS SET-TLED?

YES.

THAT HOUSE...

NO ONE HAS REGAINED THEIR MEMORIES OF AOI, BUT...

I SEE.

OH, YOU ALL HELPED ME OUT A LOT...

THANK YOU!

NO PROB-LEM.

POF

AS LONG AS YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT.

THAT'S RIGHT!

THERE'S A LOCAL FESTIVAL TONIGHT. WANT TO GO WITH US?

BY THE WAY, HIMARI...

GLOM

A FESTI-VAL...

I'D LIKE THAT.

BUT...

...I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO DO TONIGHT.

I'M HOME.

PASH

HUH?

SWF

SWIP

AH...

WELCOME HOME!

BY RESTORING THE "PATH HOME" IN HIS HEART...

...AOI CAME BACK.

AOI!

BLUSH

WERE YOU HIDING?!

SORRY, SORRY.

YUP

I'M SO HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

VEEN

HM?

DO I HAVE SOME-THING ON MY FACE?

NO!

KRIII

AH, IT'S SO HOT OUT...

KRIII

KRIII

SHALL WE GO INSIDE?

SWFF

BY THE WAY, AOI...

AREN'T YOU TIRED? IT'S SCORCHING OUT.

DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE TAKING A NAP?

HUH?

WHAT?

I'M NOT TIRED.

WELL, YOU LOOK SLEEPY.

HUH? REALLY?

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...

...I'LL SLEEP BY YOUR SIDE.

LE

AN

KRIII

KRIII

SLAP

KRIII

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

HUH? THEN WHAT?!

HUH?

PERFECT TIMING. I WANT YOU TO HELP OUT!

WHY IS EVERYONE SCRAMBLING ABOUT?

ISE!

HELP ME WITH THIS!

THAT GOES OVER THERE.

ASTR

WE HAVE ONLY UNTIL NIGHTFALL!

HURRY, WHILE WE HAVE THIS CHANCE!

TUMP TUMP

Welcome Back, Aoi!

A PARTY! A PARTY!

IT'S A PARTY!

...A SURPRISE PARTY FOR AOI.

I'M PREPAR-ING...

SIGH

"WELCOME BACK"? IT'S NOT AS IF HE WENT ANYWHERE.

THAT'S TRUE.

BUT HE SPENT THE ENTIRE TIME AS THE NUE IN A DARK SITTING ROOM.

LONELY

MAYBE HE'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME FUN.

GRIN GRIN

WE'RE GETTING THINGS SET UP WHILE AOI IS TAKING A NAP!

RIGHT, TAMAMO?!

Leave it to me!

I PUT HIM TO SLEEP IN A SINGLE BLOW.

YEAH!

SHLIP

WHOA, I HAD A TERRIFYING THOUGHT THERE.

IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION.

YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY, TAMAMO.

NOW COME ON, LET'S GET THINGS READY.

HIMARI! I GOT THESE FOR YOU!

TMP TMP

From a certain gay flower!

WOW, SO MANY SUNFLOWERS. LET'S STRING THEM TOGETHER.

Hold up that side!

Whoa!

It doesn't reach?

SKURRY SKURRY

...

PHUK

PL OP

...HIMARI.

HONESTLY, YOU'RE SO STUPIDLY ENERGETIC...

THANKS.

ISE!

UP HERE?

That looks good on you.

BUT...

FWISH

"STUPIDLY" IS GOING A BIT TOO FAR!

I WONDER IF MY PARENTS BASED MY NAME...

...ON *HIMAWARI*, THE JAPANESE WORD FOR SUNFLOWER.

...THE ONLY THING MY PARENTS LEFT ME WAS MY NAME.

BEFORE I CAME TO MOMOCHI HOUSE...

HMM ...

You're doing it again!

I TOLD YOU, "STUPIDLY" IS GOING A BIT TOO FAR!

I THINK IT'S PRETTY FITTING SINCE YOU'RE SO STUPIDLY ENERGETIC.

EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE...

...I'VE ALWAYS ...

...WANTED TO BE LIKE THIS FLOWER.

CHEERFUL LIKE A SUN-FLOWER.

A FLOWER THAT FACES THE SUN...

THAT WON'T WORK...

HMMM

PERHAPS I SHOULD TRY TO BE A BIT MORE SEDATE...

I THOUGHT I COULD FIND SOMETHING IN THIS STORE-ROOM...

...THAT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR THIS "SURPRISE PARTY."

OH

It wouldn't?

KLUTT KLUTT

Ah. That's what he meant.

SOMETHING THAT WILL STAND OUT...

WELL, IT IS SHORT NOTICE...

...THE TRUE NAME YOUR PARENTS GAVE YOU.

BUT...

THE *HI* IN MY NAME MEANS "LIGHT."

THAT STRANGE GUARDIAN TOLD ME.

YOU MIGHT SUMMON SOMETHING...

. with that many candles.

Shall I light a hundred?

SHUP

WE HAVE A LOT OF CANDLES.

HUH ?!

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO THIS TIME, YUKARI?

GIDDY

GIDDY

SHUP

OH!

THE CLOTHES FROM WHEN WE ALL PRETENDED TO BE SISTERS ARE STORED HERE.

SHUP

THIS IS MOMOCHI HOUSE'S STOREROOM.

THAT ASIDE, THIS ROOM SURE HAS ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

THERE ARE DUBIOUS ITEMS OF AYAKASHI ORIGIN EVERYWHERE.

Be careful.

I WANT TO DO SOME-THING ...

...TO SURPRISE AOI.

THUP

THUP

THUP

YOU'RE REALLY DETER-MINED, HUH.

Thanks.

SHUP

IT REMINDS ME OF THAT PLACE.

...I DON'T DISLIKE THE SMELL OF OLD THINGS.

STILL...

SNIP

AND...

AOI'S SIBLINGS...

THE DRAWERS OF THOUGHT...

IT HAPPENED RECENTLY, SO WHY DOES IT FEEL SO LONG AGO?

YUKARI...

COME TO THINK OF IT...

AOI TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IN THE DRAWERS OF THOUGHT.

YOU MUST HAVE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PARENTS.

...THAT MEANT YOU COULDN'T OPEN YOUR OWN DRAWER.

BUT...

BECAUSE OF THAT, AOI WAS ABLE TO COME BACK.

YOU CHOSE AOI'S DRAWER.

I HAVE NO REGRETS.

IT'S OKAY ...

HMM ...

HIMARI.

I'M SURE IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO KNOW.

THERE'S SOME-THING...

...AOI HAS BEEN DEBATING WHETHER TO TELL YOU.

LONG AGO, AOI HAPPENED TO FIND...

...A DIARY WRITTEN BY ONE OF YOUR PARENTS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MORE?

AOI FOUND IT A FEW YEARS AFTER HE WAS FIRST TRAPPED...

...IN MOMOCHI HOUSE.

AT THAT TIME, MOMOCHI HOUSE WAS WITHOUT A LANDLORD AND HAD ACCUMULATED MANY IMPURITIES...

...WHICH ALLOWED EVIL SPIRITS TO RUN RAMPANT.

AOI WOULD SPEND EVERY WAKING HOUR TRYING TO BANISH THEM.

HE DIDN'T KNOW WHY...

HUFF

HUFF

...BUT HE WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE VESSEL FOR THE NUE.

IF I CHASE OUT THE BAD AYAKASHI...

...WILL EVERYONE BE SAVED?

HUFF

YUKARI ...

I MEAN, AOI.

SPLENDID WORK, OMAMORI-SAMA.

I SEE.

MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WILL BE SAFE.

AND ...

...THERE IS NO STRENGTH LEFT IN HIS EYES.

HIS VOICE SOUNDS SO FAINT...

YES. THE HUMANS IN THIS REGION...

...ARE SAFE BECAUSE OF YOU.

WILL I HAVE TO...

...DO THIS FOREVER?

I WISH I COULD...

...BECOME A TRUE AYAKASHI...

...

THEN ONE DAY...

KLAK

...WITHOUT SENSE OF GOOD AND EVIL.

FLIP

FMP

FLIP

THE DIARY HAD BEEN BADLY DAMAGED. THERE WERE BLACK STAINS...

IT'S A DIARY.

...AND FEW PORTIONS OF IT WERE LEGIBLE.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK?

IT'S GLOWING?

THIS DIARY BELONGS TO SOMEONE FROM MOMOCHI HOUSE.

I was born w[illegible] but I don't
have much power [illegible] doesn't
can fulfill my duty to Momochi Ho
Wha[illegible] will happen to Omamori-sa

OH

HE STARTED PICKING OUT THE WORDS...

THIS HOUSE...

THE DIARY BELONGED TO A WOMAN WITH THE MOMOCHI NAME.

FLUP

SHE WAS LIVING A QUIET LIFE IN A TOWN AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUN-TAIN...

...WHEN SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A MAN WHO MARRIED HER DESPITE KNOWING HER SITUATION.

FLUP

A DAUGH-TER WAS BORN...

HE READ FRAGMENTS ABOUT THEIR HAPPY LIFE.

FLUP

UNTIL HALFWAY THROUGH...

FLUP

FLUP

THE BLACK STAINS GOT LARGER...

...AND A SHADOW BEGAN TO SPREAD OVER THE LIFE IN THAT DIARY.

AOI LEARNED THAT THE WOMAN WAS AFRAID OF SOME-THING.

FLUP

FLUP

FLUP

TH

O

O

M

EVENTU-
ALLY...

...HE CAME TO PAGES THAT HAD ROTTED AWAY.

VVV

HHH

AH!

AOI!

YUKARI.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

IT SEEMS THERE WAS SOMETHING PRETTY NASTY INHABITING THAT DIARY.

THE DIARY...

TH

SSH

WE PROBABLY DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...

THE MOMOCHI NAME WAS TOO MUCH OF A BURDEN FOR ME.

THIS IS FATE...

BUT DESPITE MY SHORT LIFE, I WAS HAPPY...

FOOM

?!

TWO?

SHOOF

THOSE SPIRITS...

...ARE MOST LIKELY THE OWNER OF THE DIARY AND HER HUSBAND.

WE HOPE OUR DAUGHTER WILL COME TO THIS HOUSE ONE DAY...

...AND BRING STABILITY.

PLEASE TELL HER...

THOSE OF MOMOCHI BLOOD WHO ARE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT POWER AREN'T CHOSEN TO BE THE NUE'S VESSEL.

THEY FALL PREY TO THE IMPURITIES THAT ACCUMULATE IN THIS HOUSE.

THOSE TWO COULDN'T ESCAPE.

THESE TWO...

...PASSED AWAY.

THEY POURED WHAT LITTLE POWER THEY HAD INTO THIS DIARY.

IF YOU ARE READ-ING THIS DIARY...

...ARE YOU OUR DAUGHTER OR SOME-ONE ELSE?

...WE
LOVE
HER.

SOF

BUT...

I SEE.

THEN...

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THIS HOUSE...

...TO BE THE NUE NOW.

BECAUSE OF HIS OTHER-WORLDLY POWER...

...AOI MUST BEAR THIS BURDEN.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN...

...WHEN THEIR CHILD COMES TO THIS HOUSE?

IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER...

...WILL SHE END UP LIKE THEM?

...SO THAT THEIR DAUGHTER CAN COME HOME AND BE SAFE...

...I WILL LIVE ON.

A LIGHT SHINED IN HIS EYES.

THAT'S WHY...

I THOUGHT I HAD PROTECTED HER...!

...HE SAID THAT.

IF I CAN'T SAVE HER...

...THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO KEEP LIVING!

THOSE WORDS...

BACK THEN...

...THAT'S WHAT HE HAD MEANT...

...IF YOU COULDN'T SAVE ME?

WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID THERE'D BE NO REASON FOR YOU TO KEEP LIVING...

UM... DID I SAY THAT?

LIAR.

THIS MAY NOT MAKE UP FOR...

...YOUR DRAWER OF MEMORIES–

NO.

I PREFER THIS.

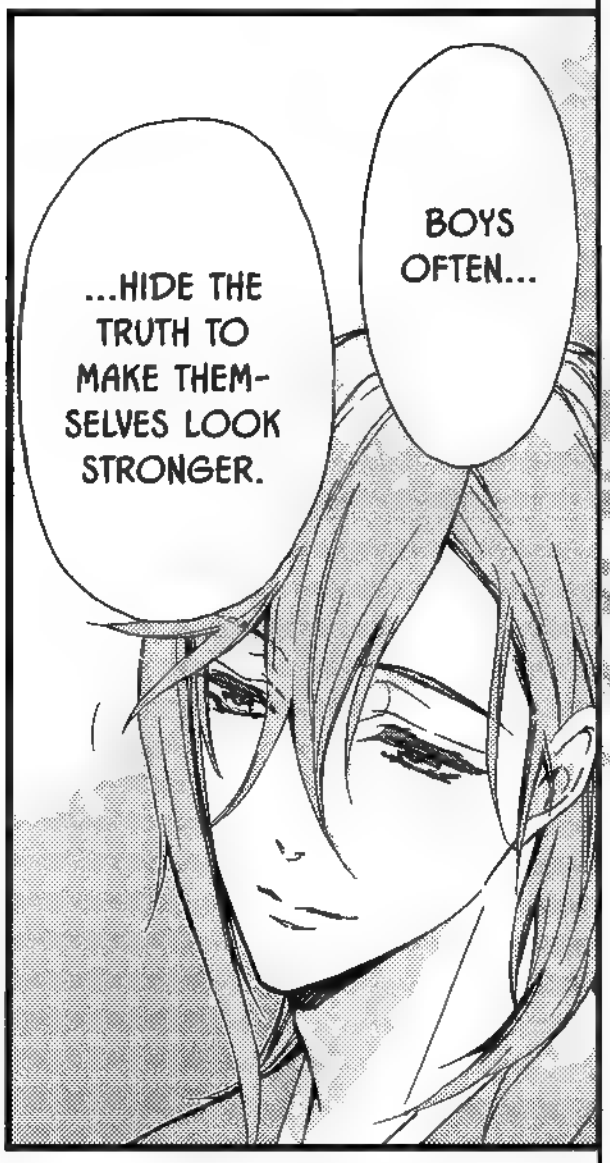
THESE SPOKEN WORDS...

...ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE LONG GONE...

...IS NOW A WARM MEMORY.

...IT MAKES ME HAPPY.

WHEN YOU OR AOI TELL ME THESE THINGS...



...THEIR FEELINGS IN THOSE WORDS HAVE CONNECTED TO ME.

IN THE SAME WAY MY MOTHER'S LAST WORDS...

...BECAME A SOURCE OF HOPE FOR AOI...

LIAR.

...ALL THIS TIME.

YOU'VE BEEN WAITING IN THIS HOUSE FOR ME...

YOU LIAR.

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME RIGHT AWAY.

HIMARI.

I LOVE AOI SO MUCH.

HIMARI...

YOU BROUGHT AOI BACK.

THANK YOU.

Chapter 34/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 35

KRIII

KRIII

KRIII

HELLO, AOI.

BLINK

TUG

EVERYONE IS WAITING.

LET'S GO.

UNGH

I WAS SLEEPING? I'M PRETTY SURE THAT TAMAMO-

A-AH. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

KRII KRIII KRIII KRIII KRIII

IT'S ALREADY EVENING.

YOU SLEPT A LONG TIME.

SUMO

HUH?

Welcome Back, Aoi!
WELCOME BACK, AOI!

LOOK!
CHAPTER 35
Light

LOOK!

CHAPTER
35

Light

Welcome Back, Aoi!

WELCOME BACK, AOI!

YAY

WE SUR-PRISED AOI!

WAIT, THERE'S MORE.

SUCCESS! ☆

PLOP

THE GUEST OF HONOR SHOULD HAVE A SEAT.

!

DID YOU DO ALL THIS WHILE I WAS ASLEEP?

I'M SURPRISED.

GLOG GLOG GLOG

PLEASE DIG IN!

...INTO THIS *OSHIRUKO* FOUNTAIN!

ALL THESE PLATES ARE MEANT TO BE DIPPED...

WAIT!

THANK YOU...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO COOKING THIS.

*Oshiruko is a red-bean soup with pieces of rice cake in it.

CHOMP
CHOMP
THE TUNA IS PRETTY GOOD.
GYOZA? SHRIMP TEMPURA?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY FIRST?
SORRY. ONCE YUKARI CAME UP WITH THAT IDEA, HE WOULDN'T LET IT GO.
WOW, THAT IS SOMETHING NEW...
AOI!
TH-THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN WE HAD BLACKOUT HOTPOT...
OPEN WIDE, AOI.
THEREFORE, I, ZUSHI, YOUR SHIKIGAMI...
I AM TRULY SORRY!
DURING THAT INCIDENT WITH THE SUSPICIOUS PRIEST, MY BEHAVIOR WAS SHAMEFUL!

I WAS WONDERING WHY HE WAS BACK IN HUMAN FORM.

HUH? WAIT, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!

YUP

Swallowing needles.

DON'T DO SOMETHING SO DEPRESSING.

PARTIES ARE ABOUT DANCING!

YEAH!!

NOW'S THE PERFECT TIME!

OH

COME TO THINK OF IT...

SHING

...SHALL SWALLOW ONE THOUSAND NEEDLES!

SWOON

Show them what you've got, Zushi!

Gyaah!

You're a true ayakashi!

YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT!

WE'LL PERFORM THE MOMOCHI REJECTION SONG.

IF IT'S DANCING YOU WANT...

...I'LL SHOW YOU MY BON FESTIVAL DANCE SKILLS.

WELL, I'M NOT SO BAD AT DANCING MYSELF.

AHEM.

MY TURN!

Ah Of course Yukari is great at it

TA-DAH

NOTHING SAYS SUMMER...

MY SURPRISE IS OVER HERE...

KLAK

...LIKE FIRE-WORKS!

FIREWORKS

WHOA. WHERE DID YOU GET THESE?

I FOUND THEM WHILE SEARCHING THE STORE-ROOM WITH YUKARI.

THEY LOOK PRETTY OLD...

...BUT I DIDN'T GET A BAD FEELING FROM THEM, SO I THINK THEY'RE FINE.

OKAY, IGNITE!

FOOSH

THEY'RE CLEARLY LABELED AS FIRE-WORKS.

VHHM

HUH?

AYAKASHI ITEMS...

SHZZNT

ZZT

ZZT

SHOCK M

DID THEY ALL GET DAMP?!

SAME WITH THIS ONE!

OR THIS ONE.

THIS ONE WON'T LIGHT EITHER.

SUFF

IT'S ALL RIGHT, HIMARI.

NO WAY.

THIS WAS SUP-POSED TO BE THE MAIN EVENT.

FOOM

FOOM

FOOM

FOOM

...REQUIRE AN AYAKASHI METHOD TO USE THEM.

NUE...

COME FORTH, FOX FIRE...

SISH

SISH

FOOM

SISH

SHOOOM

THEY IGNITED?

WOW!

MAGNIF-ICENT!

OH...

DRAGONS OF LIGHT...

SHFF

AOI?!

SO THEY WERE YOKAI FIREWORKS AFTER ALL...

BOOM

KA-KA-KA

WEREN'T YOU THE NUE JUST NOW?

THE PARTY IS GOING WELL.

EVERYONE IS ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL SURPRISE...

...HIMARI.

POOM

FIREW

SH

HM?

THE NUE DID ALL THIS, BUT...

WHAT'S THIS?! THEY'RE RIDING THOSE LIGHT DRAGONS?

HUH? YES, THEY'RE AYAKASHI FIREWORKS.

T U G

SWIP

AOI!

WHAT?!

You should have told me sooner!

LET'S GO!

DASH

THE BIGGEST ONE...

...IS OVER THERE.

HUH ?!

ARE YOU-

OH!

HIMARI, THIS ISN'T REALLY-

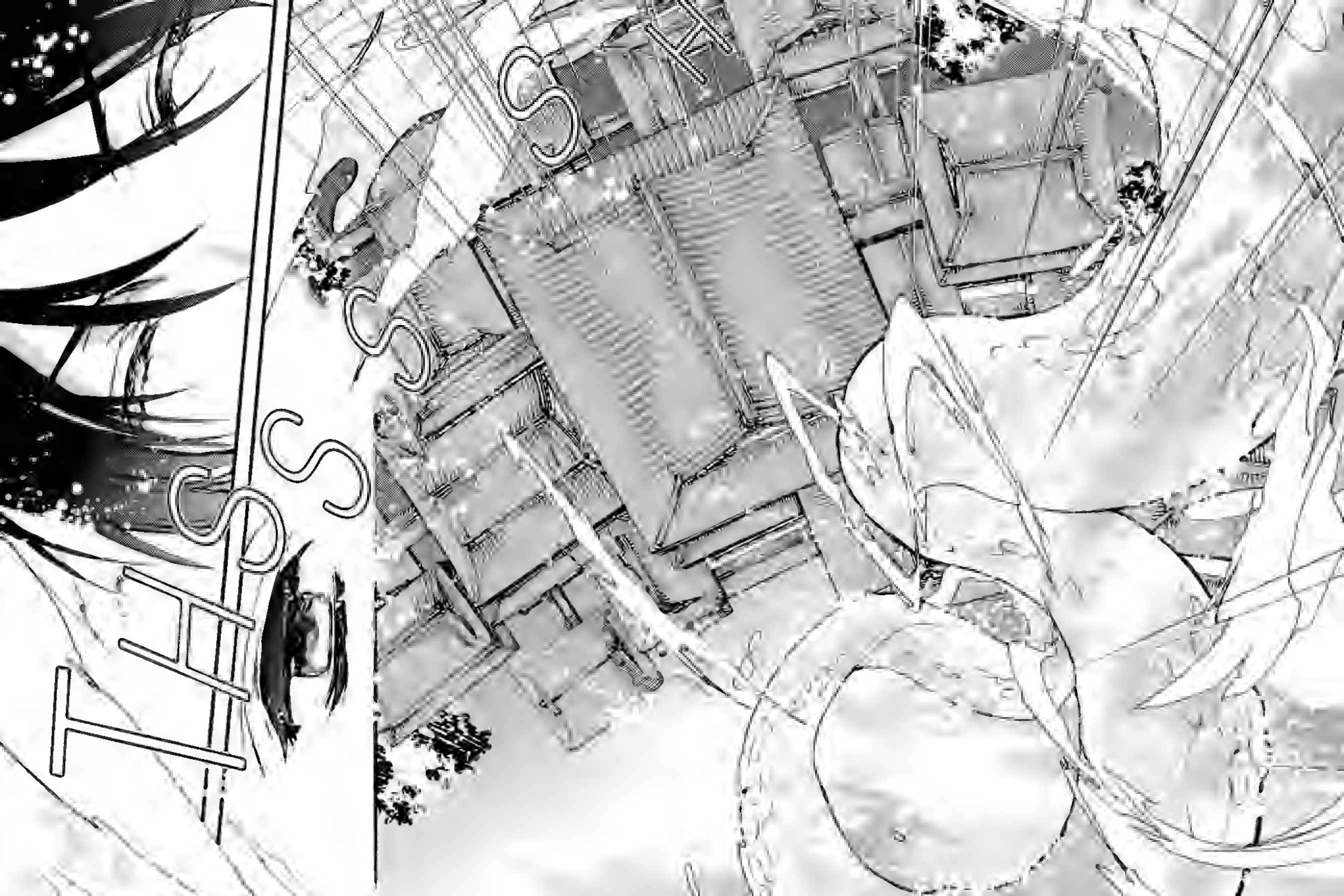
IT'S BEEN LIT!

AOI!

FOSH

LET'S GO.

THSSSSS



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

IT'S BETTER THAN I IMAGINED.

WE'RE FLYING...

LOOK...

I'VE BEEN WANT-ING...

...TO SHOW YOU THIS.

THOSE ARE THE LIGHTS...

...OF THE TOWN YOU'RE PROTECT-ING.

FIRE-WORKS?

POOM

OH.

THAT'S JUST THE SOUND OF THUNDER IN THE DISTANCE. THERE MAY BE RAIN SOON.

OF COURSE, LONG AGO...

...IT WAS SAID THAT THOSE SOUNDS WERE CAUSED BY AYAKASHI PLAYING WITH FIREWORKS.

AYAKASHI, HUH.

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD AT MOMOCHI HOUSE THIS ENTIRE TIME.

...WE ARE SOME-HOW...

EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN'T SEE US...

...ALL CON-NECTED.

IT'S AMAZING HOW BEAUTIFUL...

...THOSE LIGHTS ARE.

MY FEELINGS WILL BECOME EMOTIONAL BONDS...

...SURE TO REACH YOU.

THANK YOU, AOI.

...THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO KEEP LIVING!

I DON'T WANT YOU...

...TO EVER THINK THAT AGAIN.

POOM

...BACK INTO THE HUMAN REALM.

POOM

...WHO CAN LEAD AOI...

...THAT GIRL MAY BE THE ONE...

POOM

BUT SOME-DAY...

FSSSSSSSSH

UP IN THE SKY, HUH?

POOM

...HE'S STILL WITHIN THE BOUND-ARIES OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.

I SUPPOSE...

ISE, DID YOU KNOW...

...THE KANJI FOR *HIMAWARI*, OR "SUN-FLOWER"...

...CAN BE READ AS *AOI*, OR "MALLOW THAT FACES THE SUN"?

I KNEW THAT.

A FLOWER THAT FACES THE SUN WITH AOI...

THAT GIRL SAID...

...SHE WANTED TO LIVE HER LIFE LIKE A SUN-FLOWER.

IT CERTAINLY WAS DREAD-FUL.

OH DEAR, HAVE I SAID SOMETHING DREADFULLY HUMAN?

HEH

YOU COULD SAY IT'S FATE.

HUH?

HIMARI, OR "A LIGHT OF GREAT DISTANCE"...

"MAY YOUR LIGHT EXTEND...

"...OVER GREAT DIS-TANCES..."

IN A DIARY...

...YOUR PARENTS WROTE...

...THE MEANING OF YOUR NAME.

THE HI IN YOUR NAME IS THE KANJI FOR "LIGHT."

MY TRUE NAME...

I FINALLY TOLD YOU.

YES... I HEARD ABOUT THE DIARY.

FROM YUKARI? I SEE.

THEIR FEELINGS ARE EMOTIONAL BONDS...

...THAT HAVE REACHED ME.

I'M...

...PROTECTING THE LIGHT...

...YOUR NAME IS BASED ON.

AOI.

...ALL THIS TIME.

...PROTECTING ME...

AND YOU'VE BEEN...

AOI.

I WILL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO HER LIGHT.

THANK YOU, HIMARI.

...ARE SO BEAU-TIFUL.

HIMARI, LISTEN...

AHH...

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

AOI'S EYES...

THE TRUTH IS...
...I...

THE TRUTH IS...

...I...

...DO
LOVE
YOU...

Chapter 35/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

■ Here is volume 9. I'm sorry for making you wait for a bit—I was on maternity leave. I am deeply impressed with myself that I was able to return to work and put out this volume. I went with my unborn child to see the *Momochi House* play in the theater and to meet everyone at the autograph sessions. It was a lot of fun. The arc about Aoi's past has wrapped up in this volume. It was an idea I had since the beginning of the series. My maternity leave and the reunion chapter seemed to line up perfectly. It felt like fate. I definitely sensed something. Anyway, the things I draw and the things I want to draw won't change. *Momochi House* will continue.

Please keep reading.

Aya Shouoto
二〇一六

The DEMON PRINCE *of* MOMOCHI HOUSE

I love picking out summer kimonos,
and I quickly fall in love with them.
But my summers usually end
without even wearing one or two.
I'd like to make it a habit to don
them when I go out.

-Aya Shouoto

Aya Shouoto was born on December 25.
Her hobbies are traveling, staying at hotels,
sewing and daydreaming. She currently
lives in Tokyo and enjoys listening to J-pop
anime theme songs while she works.

The Demon Prince of Momochi House

Volume 9
Shojo Beat Edition

Story and Art by Aya Shouoto

Translation JN Productions
Touch-Up Art & Lettering Inori Fukuda Trant
Design Izumi Evers
Editor Nancy Thistlethwaite

MOMOCHISANCHI NO AYAKASHI OUJI Volume 9
© Aya SHOUOTO 2016
First published in Japan in 2016 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned
in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or
by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, July 2017

www.viz.com

RATED T FOR TEEN
PARENTAL ADVISORY
THE DEMON PRINCE OF MOMOCHI HOUSE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up.
ratings.viz.com

www.shojobeat.com